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THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA:
THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE
AND SECURITY AND PEACE INITIATIVES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fifth year

Letter dated 17 December 1990 from the Permanent Representatives of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit to you herewith the Declaration of Puntarenas (see annex), which was adopted on this date by the Presidents of the five Central American countries and to which is appended the Declaration on the situation in El Salvador, signed by the Presidents of Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. The President of the Republic of Panama participated as an invited observer.

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this note and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 28, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Cristián TATTENBACH
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations

(Signed) Ricardo CASTANEDA CORNEJO
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations

(Signed) Francisco VILLAGRAN DE LEON
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the United Nations

(Signed) Roberto FLORES BERMUDEZ
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Honduras to the United Nations

(Signed) Roberto MAYORGA CORTES
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Nicaragua to the United Nations

ANNEX

Declaration of Puntarenas

The Central American Presidents, meeting in Puntarenas, Costa Rica, from 15 to 17 December 1990, and acting in accordance with the wishes of the peoples of the isthmus, declare Central America to be a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development. In this spirit, they reaffirm their commitment to the establishment of a firm and lasting peace in Central America; their decision to strengthen relations of friendship, co-operation and good-neighbourliness; and their determination to improve the democratic systems in the region through Governments which have been elected by universal, equal, free and secret suffrage in each of the countries.

They declare that it is imperative to incorporate the irregular forces into the political process and to do away with violence. They express their commitment to protecting, defending and promoting human rights. They reiterate their decision to bring about reconciliation in the divided Central American societies.

They recognize that peace in Central America is one, undivided and indivisible, and that any situation of violence, wherever it occurs, has a negative impact on the entire region. Consequently, the countries of the region are bound by a legitimate concern and a mutual, inescapable duty of solidarity in their efforts to do away with all violent action and terrorism and their undertaking to overcome extreme poverty and promote sustained development, as an expression of the basic interdependence and the common origin and destiny of the countries of the isthmus. Accordingly, they commit themselves to the establishment of a new model of regional security.

They recognize that there must be no delay in developing education for peace and establishing a new regional ecological order. They declare their joint commitment to the protection of the environment, recognizing the responsibility they share with the developed countries for its preservation.

They take note of the report submitted by the Ministers responsible for regional integration and development and welcome the progress made in implementing the Central American Economic Plan of Action (PAECA). Likewise, they decide to continue to promote the establishment of a new kind of Central American integration, the aim being to make the region into a stronger economic bloc that can be integrated successfully into the global economy, through such measures as the following: liberalizing regional and extra-regional trade; pursuing a regional policy on prices and the supply of agricultural products in order to guarantee food security in Central America; supporting the development of the productive sectors through modernization and conversion programmes, specific proposals for resolving the serious debt problem facing our countries, and regional action to eliminate discriminatory barriers to our exports in other countries.



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On the basis of these common principles and purposes, the Presidents agree as follows:

1. Renewing their commitment to strengthening democratic institutions in the isthmus, they decide to request the international community and the relevant specialized agencies to increase co-operation aimed at enhancing the functioning of the various branches of government and, in particular, improving the administrative and judicial machinery guaranteeing the full observance of basic human rights.

They draw particular attention to their decision to promote and strengthen the full observance of human rights, and agree on the advisability of establishing regional programmes to publicize and provide education on human rights.

2. They express their profound satisfaction at the extent of the progress achieved in the negotiations being carried out by the Security Commission with a view to concluding a Central American agreement on security, verification and the control and limitation of weapons and military forces, despite the obstacle created by the persistence of armed actions by the irregular groups still operating in the region. They also express their approval of the work being done by the Security Commission on the establishment of measures of trust between the Central American States.

They underscore the advances made in such important matters as the establishment of inventories and factor charts, the deactivation of land mines or the disarming of civilians, in accordance with internal laws, and the prevention of incidents; and they acknowledge the co-operation being provided by the international community through the United Nations and the Organization of American States in political and material support of such work.

They instruct the Security Commission to fulfil as soon as possible the mandate conferred upon it in Antigua, Guatemala, with a view to the adoption of an agreement on security, verification and the control and limitation of weapons and military forces.

They uphold the firm determination of their Governments to continue to take whatever action is necessary to strengthen the decisions of the legitimately constituted civil authorities. They underscore the importance in this respect of enabling the armed forces and the security forces to take specific action to support the civil authorities in the implementation of social welfare and environmental protection projects.

In this context, the Presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras praise the successful efforts of the Government of Nicaragua to effect the gradual reduction of its army, in the spirit of strengthening civil institutions and freeing resources for economic and social development.

3. They agree, in the light of the reports of the Executive Commission, to establish a committee to verify the political commitments entered into as part of the Esquipulas process. This committee shall be composed of five Central American citizens of recognized independence, suitability and prestige, to be appointed by

the National Reconciliation Commissions. Within the next 60 days, each Commission shall inform its respective Government regarding the person it has selected to be a member of the committee. The Presidents also agree to request the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States, in consultation with the Executive Commission, to identify the areas in which technical support and advice are to be provided to the committee.

The Presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua recognize the work done by the National Reconciliation Commission of Guatemala to develop a broad national dialogue aimed at reaching consensus agreements and proposals that will meet the aspirations of all sectors of society. In addition, they underscore its effectiveness in sponsoring, with the support of the Government of Guatemala, talks between the various sectors of Guatemalan society and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatamalteca (URNG), in an attempt to persuade the latter to abandon armed struggle and be incorporated into the peaceful political process.

4. The Presidents of Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua have reviewed with the President of El Salvador the developments in the armed conflict in that country and the current status of the ongoing dialogue between the Government of El Salvador and the irregular armed force of the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional.

In connection with the latest outbreak of hostilities, they are issuing the Declaration on the situation in El Salvador appended hereto.

The Presidents of Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, together with the President of El Salvador, reiterate their resolute support for the efforts being made by the United Nations Secretary-General on behalf of peace in El Salvador, and they express their firm hope that steps can shortly be agreed and taken under international supervision to ensure a cease-fire and its verification by United Nations observers and the establishment, as agreed, of machinery to guarantee the observance of human rights and bring about full national reconciliation in El Salvador.

5. They are following closely the action taken over the past year by the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) and underscore the positive contribution it has made to the current situation in the region. They express their satisfaction that Security Council resolution 675 (1990) has extended the mandate of ONUCA for six months.

They have carefully studied the recommendations made by the Security Commission at its latest meeting in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, aimed at strengthening and bringing up to date the organizational and operational structure of ONUCA and making the verification activities more effective. They agree to support the recommendations that relate to communication, investigation, detection and co-ordination, and they instruct the Executive Commission to initiate talks as soon as possible with the United Nations Secretariat with a view to the early adoption of the aforementioned recommendations and the establishment of an arrangement whereby the United Nations will keep the Executive Commission regularly informed about ONUCA activities.

6. In order that the continuing flows of returnees, displaced persons and refugees into individual countries of the region may receive proper attention, including protection and assistance, they urge that specific international support should be organized for the implementation of the proposals and projects submitted by the Governments which convened the first international meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the International Conference on Central American Refugees (CIREFCA), held at United Nations Headquarters, New York on 27 and 28 June 1990, and that the contributions pledged should be used as soon as possible to assist these groups of people.

7. They agree on the need to maintain and strengthen direct relations between the European Community and Central America, with the participation of the Group of Three, using the existing institutional forums.

They also express the hope that the forthcoming seventh meeting at San José, which is scheduled to be held at Managua on 18 and 19 March 1991, will mark an advance in the new stage of enhanced dialogue and co-operation between the two regions.

Underscoring the importance of their forthcoming meeting with the President of Mexico, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, they decide to take whatever steps are needed to strengthen the relations of the region with the United Mexican States and express the hope that agreements reflecting this goal can be signed at the meeting.

They express their firm conviction that the new initiatives towards co-operation in the region will complement the bilateral and multilateral programmes currently in effect and will help to expand co-operation in development and trade.

8. Aware that education and development are related, they reaffirm their decision to examine and meet the conspicuous needs that still exist in the region. Accordingly, they support the steps taken towards educational and cultural co-ordination in Central America aimed at expanding and strengthening pre-school education programmes, adopting strategies to broaden educational coverage, improve the quality of education, enhance the retention of pupils in schools and promote education, encouraging adult education programmes and policies and furthering education for peace, democracy, development, health and the environment.

They draw particular attention to the imperative need to eliminate illiteracy in the region, and to revise the educational curricula adapting them to the requirements of development and to the cultural conditions of the different sectors of the population.

9. Convinced that the current state of the region's natural resources and environment requires drastic action in terms of preservation, renewal and development, supported by the most emphatic political decisiveness, they recognize the work done by the Central American Commission on Environment and Development and decide to instruct it to identify, within 90 days, the measures needed to:

(a) Prepare a strategy for an "external debt for nature swap", with the aim of financing sustained development and environmental protection programmes, using as a starting-point the Americas Initiative and the commercial and bilateral debt of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE). Such a strategy should envisage both the incurring of commercial debts and the write-off of institutional debts;

(b) Establish a regional inventory and a regional census of zones and species requiring special protection, and identify the protected areas to be given priority in border areas;

(c) Draw up a regional agreement setting out the commitment of the Central American Governments to the establishment of a system of protection for the zones and species that have been identified, to be submitted for consideration at the forthcoming Summit Meeting of the Central American Presidents;

(d) Work out, in co-ordination with the Executive Commission, a Central American position and strategy for the next World Conference on the Environment, to be held in Brazil in 1992;

(e) Participate actively in the negotiations being held within the United Nations system with a view to concluding international conventions on biological diversity and climatic change;

(f) Take practical steps to keep the Central American countries from becoming dumps for toxic waste and for substances harmful to the environment and to health, and to prevent the transit of such wastes and substances through the area, observing the stipulations of the Basel Convention on the subject;

(g) Ensure prompt and full application of the plan of action for forestry in Central America and the respective national plans in each country; and

(h) Devise machinery to establish national environment and development funds as well as a regional fund, and begin work on formulating a Central American agenda on the environment and development, in co-ordination with the national bodies dealing with the matter.

The Presidents of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua share the conviction expressed by the President of Costa Rica, Rafael Angel Calderón Fournier, to the effect that concerted international action must be taken to confront the environmental challenges from a standpoint of respect for nature and solidarity and harmony with it. They enthusiastically give their support to the proclamation concerning a new ecological order of international co-operation, issued on 14 December 1990 by the President of Costa Rica, and they appeal to the international community to support with concrete action the initiatives set forth in that proclamation, because they are convinced that they constitute a basis for ensuring that human beings will enjoy their right to a liveable world.

10. In view of the threat which drug trafficking poses to the stability of the democratic institutions and the well-being of the Central American peoples, they resolve:

(a) To appeal to the international community to step up action to combat drug trafficking by means of technical and financial co-operation and to work effectively towards the adoption of a multilateral policy covering drug production, consumption, processing and trafficking, the control of chemical precursors and related financial offences;

(b) To emphasize the importance of improving the economic and social conditions of developing countries as a means of curtailing illicit drug production or trafficking in those countries, and to stress the need for the industrialized countries to take appropriate steps to eradicate the illicit consumption of drugs and to control the production and export of the chemical substances used in their processing;

(c) To take joint and co-ordinated action to prevent, control and eradicate drug trafficking, and to adopt all possible measures to enhance the effectiveness of the agreement on regional co-operation for the eradication of illicit traffic in drugs;

(d) To establish a Central American standing commission for the eradication of the production, consumption, trafficking and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and of related crimes, particularly money laundering and the legalization of other property, and to set up regional machinery for the exchange of information on this subject;

(e) To co-ordinate monitoring at borders and by customs with a view to averting illicit traffic in drugs;

(f) To draw up a regional educational programme to prevent illicit drug consumption and use;

(g) To instruct the appropriate bodies in each of the countries to carry out the actions enumerated, and to request support from the international community and the specialized agencies for the same purpose.

11. Convinced that it is necessary in the strictest respect for human rights, to regulate and organize migratory flows in, to and from the region, they agree to instruct the respective national authorities to take concerted action with a view to:

(a) Harmonizing legislation and systems relating to migration in the region;

(b) Eliminating visas in diplomatic and official passports, and establishing a multiple visa for merchants, businessmen, professionals and other categories of persons;

(c) Establishing a common format for passports and migrants' documents;

(d) Designing a Central American information system for migration control.

12. They express their support to the Central American Parliament in recognizing its potential value as a political forum which will strengthen the ongoing dialogue and the search for regional consensus. They urge the European Economic Community to make good its offer of assistance for the holding of parliamentary elections to those countries which require it.

13. They recognize and emphasize that the meetings of First Ladies of Central America, initiated in 1987, make an important and meaningful contribution to the peace process and to the development of the social and cultural agenda for the region in such major areas as assistance to children affected by armed violence in Central America, responsibility towards adolescent women, and the situation of women and families in the region. They accordingly instruct their Governments, subject to the co-ordinating role of the First Ladies, to adopt and implement wherever possible the conclusions and recommendations formulated at those meetings. At forthcoming summits, the First Ladies will play an active part in the consideration of the social agenda.

14. The Presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras express their belief that the economic and social problems of Nicaragua must be dealt with as a matter of urgency and in the spirit of generosity which the circumstances require, since otherwise there may be a serious deterioration in the democratic processes of that nation and in the stability of the region in general. In this regard, they consider that what is required in order to surmount those problems, in addition to the support provided by the Central American countries, which serves as an example, is a vast and effective programme of assistance by the international community.

15. They therefore instruct the Central American forum for consultations and co-ordination in external debt matters, consisting of the Ministers of the Treasury and the Presidents of the Central Banks of the countries of the region, to devise, by 31 March 1991 at the latest, an exceptional and realistic way of dealing with Nicaragua's interregional debt.

In the light of the above, they urge the international community to implement an emergency plan of an exceptional nature which would provide additional resources designed to effect immediate solutions to the problems which Nicaragua faces in the areas of external indebtedness and financing for the economic and social reconstruction of the country. They also request the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank to assume joint responsibility for co-ordinating and executing a programme to surmount above-mentioned problems.

16. Considering the importance to the socio-economic development of the region of securing greater openness and effective participation in international trade, they instruct the Ministers responsible for regional integration and development to draw up a Central American policy of tariff and customs alignment which would be

compatible with the policies for the regional development of external openness and to modernize the instruments used as its basis.

To enable the countries to achieve uniformity in a gradual, concurrent and concerted process, they set the following time-limits:

(a) 31 March 1991, for the establishment of the parameters of the negotiation;

(b) 31 May 1991, for the general tariff review and the entry into effect of the tariffs on which there is consensus;

(c) 31 December 1992, for the conclusion of the negotiations and the entry into effect of the uniform tariff;

(d) 31 December 1991, for the adoption of the tariff nomenclature known as the "harmonized system" and of the Central American Anti-Dumping Code.

They further instruct the Executive Council of the General Treaty of Central American Economic Integration to take any necessary steps to ensure that regional commitments pertaining to tariffs and customs are honoured.

17. In view of the urgent need for the Central American countries to develop and transform the productive sectors, and as a complement to the tariff policy to be adopted, they instruct the Ministers responsible for regional integration and development, acting in co-ordination with the sectors concerned, to draw up within three months a regional programme for the conversion and modernization of the productive sectors, without prejudice to the actions being carried out at the national level. This programme shall be implemented from June 1991 onwards.

To this end, they appeal to the international financial institutions, especially the Inter-American Development Bank (BID), to provide the necessary support for the implementation of the programme.

18. They approve the proposed regional science and technology policy elaborated by the competent authorities and commission them to prepare the profile of an investment plan for the scientific and technological development of the productive sectors which is designed to strengthen those sectors' competitiveness and capacity for technological innovation and is in keeping with the regional programme for the conversion and modernization of the sectors and the regional tariff programme.

19. With a view to facilitating the exchange of basic agricultural products among the countries of the region and guaranteeing food security, they instruct the Ministers of Agriculture, acting in co-ordination with the Ministers responsible for regional integration and development and other competent authorities, to:

(a) Give priority, in the harmonization of agricultural policies, to the question of regional pricing and marketing of basic commodities, with a view to meeting fully consumer demand within the region;

(b) Take immediate action to design a system for the exchange of information on markets;

(c) Draw up regional policies on the administration of grants, the purchase and sale of products and inputs, concessional imports, and negotiations concerning surpluses and deficits of basic agricultural commodities.

Draft agreements in this area are to be submitted to the summit convened to deal principally with agricultural development.

20. Aware that external public debt has become a serious obstacle to the economic and social development of the Central American countries, is holding back efforts to achieve peace and democracy in the region and, furthermore, is a joint responsibility of debtors and creditors, urge that:

(a) The multilateral financial institutions, acting in concert with the competent authorities of the Central American countries, establish as a matter of urgency comprehensive machinery for rescheduling loans, reducing the effective level of payments and arranging terms compatible with the economic realities of the countries of the region; and modify the existing procedures for administering, approving and disbursing loans with a view to making them more flexible and expeditious;

(b) The creditor countries forgive a significant portion of the debt, the remainder to be refinanced on concessional terms, with payment in national currency, so that it can be used to finance projects designed to reduce poverty, generate foreign exchange and protect the environment.

They further instruct the Ministers responsible for regional integration and development, acting together with the competent authorities, to establish machinery for devising solutions to the problem of indebtedness among the countries of the region.

21. They express their support for the actions taken by the Ministers responsible for regional integration and development and by the Presidents of the Central Banks for the restructuring and revitalization of the Central American Economic Integration Bank (BCIE), with a view to its becoming the financial instrument required to reactivate the economies of the countries in the region, on the basis of the documents containing the country representatives' descriptions of the current situation and the outlook for BCIE (15 and 16 October and 11 December 1990, Washington, D.C.).

In reference to the foregoing, they urge the Inter-American Development Bank to finance the countries of the region so that they will be able to capitalize BCIE and make it financially sound.

22. They express their satisfaction with the entry into force of the new regional payments system, designed to give impetus to Central American regional trade. They undertake to operate it according to sound financial standards and are particularly grateful for the support which the European Economic Community (EEC) has provided

for its functioning within the framework of the Community's co-operative relations with Central America.

23. They express their appreciation to the European Economic Community for the granting of special treatment under the generalized system of preferences (GSP) to four Latin American countries in support of their struggle against drug production and trafficking. As this decision places the Central American countries at a disadvantage, they urge EEC to extend, without delay, the same benefits as were granted to those nations to the products exported by the Central American countries.

They also instruct their Ministers for Foreign Affairs to make arrangements with EEC for the extension of those benefits to the Central American countries.

24. Considering that, within the framework of co-operation between EEC and the Central American isthmus, the banana has been recognized as important in the trade between the two regions and as vital to the economies of the area, they reiterate the urgency, as part of the negotiations being conducted in the current round of multilateral negotiations and the strategy for a single European market in 1992, that the banana be guaranteed exemption from import levies and quotas.

25. They reiterate their satisfaction at the Americas Initiative proposed by the President of the United States of America, George Bush. The source of high hopes for the economic development of Central America, the Americas Initiative advocates a system of free trade, the promotion of investments in the region and the adoption of debt conversion arrangements designed to foster environmental protection.

In this connection, they urge the Congress of the United States of America to support the Initiative.

At the same time, they instruct the competent authorities of their countries to establish machinery for consultations and co-ordination for the purpose of signing with the United States of America a treaty on fair trade with the region, stimulating greater flows of investment to Central America and developing environmental impact projects. The foregoing is without prejudice to activities promoted by individual countries.

26. They welcome the proposal to establish the Association for Democracy and Development in Central America (ADD), which would serve as a forum for strengthening peace and democracy and contributing to the economic development of Central America.

They believe that Central America's leading role in the Association is of vital importance and that the management of such an Association must be broadly based, as evidenced by standards of equality and the equitable representation of all its participants.

They instruct the Executive Commission, composed of Ministers for Foreign Affairs, and the Ministers responsible for regional integration and development to work together in adopting measures and making arrangements for the establishment of ADD.

In order for this initiative to be effective and designed to fulfil the above-mentioned purposes, they urge the Inter-American Development Bank to co-ordinate the work of a regional consultative group, with the participation of international organizations, co-operation agencies and donor countries, whose purpose would be to support the Central American countries in establishing conditions which would facilitate the attainment of common social, political and economic goals.

27. They express their satisfaction at the intention of Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela to launch national and regional projects which would identify and develop new sources of energy, thereby helping to reduce the Central American countries' dependency on oil, which is particularly heavy in times of crisis.

28. They express their appreciation for the resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations to extend the Special Plan of Economic Co-operation (PEC) for another three years. They also urge the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to approve the request submitted by the region and to grant the amount sought, which would enable PEC to continue functioning as a fundamental source of support for the development of the area, with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of funded programmes and deepening relations between the Plan and the isthmus countries. In order to give economic and technical substance to the priorities of PAECA, they reiterate their appeal that the secretariat of PAECA should be established in a country of the region.

29. They welcome the favourable treatment granted by the friendly nations of Mexico and Venezuela in the matter of the payment of oil bills by Central American countries and express their hope that the relations thus far established in the current economic context of the oil crisis be consolidated in lasting ties of co-operation, promotion of investments and increased trade.

30. They recognize the importance of the recent establishment of the Mexican Commission for Co-operation with Central America both to integration efforts and to the implementation of measures for the strengthening of trade relations between Mexico and Central America.

31. They recognize the progress achieved in the implementation of PAECA, according to the report submitted to the Ministers responsible for regional integration and development, including: an analysis of the legal framework for integration by the Commission of Jurists; the entry into force of the regional payments system; some important preliminary steps towards the signing of an interim multilateral free trade agreement between Honduras and the other countries of the region; the launching of physical infrastructure programmes; the streamlining of regional transport and customs procedures; the harmonization of regional policies in priority areas of the agricultural sector; the elaboration of a proposal on the regional policy and programme for science and technology; and progress regarding the environment and development.

32. They instruct the Ministers responsible for regional integration and development, acting in compliance with the provisions of PAECA and working together

with the competent authorities, to complete the following tasks no later than 31 December 1991:

(a) Formulation of a regional tourism policy, based on the development of the natural and cultural heritage;

(b) Study of the feasibility of a flexible air space policy based on negotiation;

(c) Elaboration of a plan for the regional development of fisheries;

(d) Review and adjustment of the mechanisms for achieving the free movement of cultural property in the region;

(e) Adoption of a regional programme for the development of the productive sectors of society;

(f) Adoption of a regional housing and human settlements programme;

(g) Development of a programme for airport facilities.

They are grateful for the active participation of all sectors and organizations involved in PAECA and urge the competent authorities to pursue their efforts to implement PAECA and this Declaration.

33. In view of the importance of the institutional and legal basis of Central American integration, they instruct the Ministers concerned to submit to this forum at the next summit a proposal for a basic regulatory framework which would legitimize and guarantee the legal security required to strengthen the integration process.

34. With the aim of enhancing the presence of Central American countries in international organizations and of heightening the importance of the regional group within those organizations, they agree to establish machinery for co-ordinating votes and candidacies, based on a strict rotation system in putting forward nominations for offices, posts, venues and membership in bodies of the inter-American system and the United Nations system, including agencies and specialized agencies. In this connection, they instruct the Executive Commission and the Ministers responsible for regional integration and development to set up the above-mentioned machinery.

35. They reaffirm the mandate whereby the various forums already established are to regulate, promote and facilitate the implementation of the agreements, as well as to carry out their principal function which is to verify, control and follow up all commitments set forth in the Guatemala Procedure and subsequent Declarations.

They further agree to the following additional institutional arrangements, designed to systematize and strengthen the organization and co-ordination of summits:

(a) Presidential meetings shall take place semi-annually in the months of June and December. They will be preceded by a preparatory meeting of the Executive Commission and the Ministers responsible for regional integration and development, which shall be attended by Ministers and authorities responsible for other areas of government, as required in order to prepare summit agendas;

(b) The host country of the summit shall act as secretariat thereof through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs during the six months following the summit, in order to facilitate the analysis and dissemination of documents and relations with third countries and international organizations. In this connection, the host country shall be the spokesman for Central America during the corresponding six-month period.

Future host countries, by rotation, shall be as follows:

January-June 1991 ... Costa Rica
July-December 1991 ... El Salvador
January-June 1992 ... Honduras
July-December 1992 ... Nicaragua
January-June 1993 ... Guatemala

(c) The secretariat of the summit shall transmit the reports, conclusions and recommendations of the summits to the appropriate forums and to the Executive Commission for the Proceedure, with a view to ensuring effective and co-ordinated action thereon.

36. They welcome the proposal put forward by the Rio Group at its last meeting, held at Caracas, Venezuela, that Central America should participate in the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Concerted Political Action and agree to send their representatives in accordance with the order of rotation established.

37. They reaffirm their gratitude for the efforts and progress made by the Government of the Republic of Panama in the domestic consultative process taking place there, with a view to determining whether it should strengthen its economic ties with the Central American isthmus.

They also welcome with deep satisfaction the clear statements by the Government of Panama that it will participate to a greater extent in the Central American political and economic forums and strengthen its ties with regional organizations.

38. Recognizing the significant support given to the cause of peace and international détente by the President of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Mikhail Gorbachev, recipient of the 1990 Nobel Peace Prize, and in the conviction that his visit to Central America would help to highlight the importance of the cause of peace and democracy in the region and strongly promote it, they agreed to invite him to pay an offical visit to Central America.

39. The Presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua, in view of the fact that the term of the President of Guatemala, Marco Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo is drawing to a close, express their gratitude for the fundamental role he has played in favour of regional peace and emphasize that it was his initiative which brought together the five Central American leaders in Esquipulas. They are grateful for his constant devotion and efforts throughout the process of Esquipulas II, whose importance in the attainment of the agreed objectives is such that Central Americans today can look forward to the prospect of achieving firm and lasting peace in the region.

40. Aware of the fundamental role of farming, forestry and cattle-raising activities in the economic and social life of the Central American countries, and convinced of the need to stimulate their development in every way, they agree that a forthcoming summit will be devoted primarily to the agricultural sector.

41. They agree to meet again during the first half of 1991 in the Republic of El Salvador.

42. The Presidents of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama express their profound appreciation to the President of Costa Rica, Rafael Angel Calderón Fournier, and to the Costa Rican Government and people for the hospitality and kindness, which significantly contributed to the success of the meeting.

Puntarenas, 17 December 1990

Rafael Angel CALDERON FOURNIER
President of the Republic of Costa Rica

Marco Vinicio CEREZO AREVALO
President of the Republic of Guatemala

Alfredo CRISTIANI BURKARD
President of the Republic of El Salvador

Rafael Leonardo CALLEJAS ROMERO
President of the Republic of Honduras

Violeta BARRIOS de CHAMORRO
President of the Republic of Nicaragua

As invited Observer:
Guillermo ENDARA GALIMANY
President of the Republic of Panama

APPENDIX

Declaration on the situation in El Salvador

The Presidents of Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, together recognizing the current difficult situation in the fraternal Republic of El Salvador, recently exacerbated by the actions of FMLN, which have affected the civilian population and led to a qualitative escalation of the armed conflict in that country, as a result of the use by the aforementioned irregular force of sophisticated and highly destructive weapons,

Recalling the commitments entered into by the Central American Governments in the context of the Esquipulas process concerning an appeal for an end to hostilities and national reconciliation, whereby they are to: "make dialogue prevail over violence and reason over hatred"; "... initiate a dialogue with all the domestic political opposition groups which have laid down their arms and those which have availed themselves of the amnesty"; and "... take all necessary steps, in accordance with the constitution, to bring about a genuine cease-fire",

Acknowledging once again the efforts made since 1 June 1989 by the President of El Salvador, Alfredo Cristiani, with a view to ending the country's armed conflict by means of dialogue with FMLN, in order that the members of that irregular armed group may be fully incorporated into peaceful and democratic life,

Reiterating that peace, freedom, democracy and development must be based on respect for the constitutional juridical order, which may be amended only by established lawful means and by legitimate constituted authorities, representing as they do the sovereign will of the people freely expressed through the ballot-boxes,

Reaffirming the need for peace to be achieved by means of reconciliation and lasting stability throughout Central America, in order to permit the economic and social development sought by our peoples, at a time when such reconciliation and stability are obstructed by the existence of conflicts in some countries of the region, and particularly by the situation prevailing in El Salvador,

Bearing in mind that the process of dialogue to achieve peace between the Government of El Salvador and FMLN has been obstructed by persistent acts of violence on the part of FMLN,

Recalling the Declaration of San Isidro de Coronado, which included a decision, with a view to involving the international community as represented by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to invite the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to ensure the resumption of the dialogue between the Government of El Salvador and FMLN, thereby facilitating its successful continuation,

Emphasizing and acknowledging the valuable contribution of Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, Secretary-General of the United Nations, under whose auspices the Geneva Agreement of 4 April 1990 was signed, thus permitting the

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resumption of the El Salvador peace process, in which both parties assured him that there was "a serious intention and good faith" to seek a definitive settlement of the armed conflict through negotiations,

Drawing attention to the constructive position of the Government of El Salvador in accepting a wide-ranging and serious discussion of all items making up the agenda for that process, including the Salvadorian armed forces, whose existence is governed by the Constitution of that Republic,

Noting that the attitude of FMLN in the dialogue with the Government of El Salvador has made it more difficult to achieve a rapid solution of the armed conflict and that its new offensive constitutes a violation of the Agreement on Human Rights signed at San José, Costa Rica, on 26 July 1990, which includes a commitment to "... avoid any act or practice which constitutes an attempt upon the life, integrity, security or freedom of the individual",

Hereby agree:

1. To support the desire for peace, democracy and reconciliation of the fraternal Salvadorian people, as repeatedly expressed in recent years in honest and pluralistic electoral processes;

2. To acknowledge the political will of the constitutional Government of El Salvador and its determination to comply with the commitments to peace and democracy into which it entered under the "Procedure for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace in Central America", Esquipulas II and subsequent declarations, particularly those adopted at Tela and San Isidro de Coronado;

3. To reaffirm their decisive support for the constitutional President of El Salvador, Alfredo Cristiani, in his repeated and continuous efforts to achieve peace through the peaceful procedures of dialogue and negotiation;

4. To reiterate the need for immediate and effective compliance with the Agreement on Human Rights and, in that context, to applaud the firm stand taken by President Alfredo Cristiani;

5. To acknowledge and emphasize the valuable steps taken by the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to achieving a peaceful solution of the Salvadorian conflict, which threatens the peace and stability of the entire Central American region;

6. To condemn the acts of violence carried out by FMLN, which have caused anguish and death among the Salvadorian civilian population and inflicted serious damage on that country's economic infrastructure;

7. To insist that FMLN immediately halt its use of sophisticated weapons such as those employed in the recent offensive, and to call on the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) to carry out, as soon as possible, the necessary investigations to identify the origin of those weapons;

8. To demand that FMLN observe an immediate and effective cease-fire, display its political will to enter, at the earliest opportunity, into agreements permitting the achievement of a firm and lasting peace in the region, refrain from obstructing the elections, abandon the armed struggle and join the democratic process;

Call upon all peoples and Governments of the world:

1. To give their firm and decisive support to this initiative of the Central American Governments, which is a legitimate expression of the will of its peoples;

2. To assist in persuading FMLN of the vital need to negotiate and take advantage of the desire for dialogue displayed by the Salvadorian Government with a view to achieving peace;

3. To help, as a means of promoting the process of bringing about a peaceful settlement of the conflict, to end all military, economic, logistical and publicity assistance which is still available to FMLN in various parts of the world;

And undertake, for their part:

1. To support, through their actions, the negotiations being held under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations;

2. To constitute themselves as a mechanism to follow up the process of negotiations between the Government and FMLN, with a view to promoting and contributing to the objectives proposed for the achievement of a peaceful and democratic solution in El Salvador, in accordance with the commitments entered into by the various parties;

3. To request, both directly and through Central American diplomatic missions, support for this initiative from the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Security Council and the Secretary-General and the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States and to call upon Governments, churches and bodies of other sorts to provide it with political and material support;

4. To promote, in support of this peace process, an intensive joint co-ordinated campaign of diplomatic activity directed toward the international community, and particularly towards those Governments which have links with and interests in the Salvadorian conflict;

5. To instruct the Ministers for Foreign Affairs to agree promptly on the measures and steps to be taken in order to attain the objectives herein defined.

In conclusion, the Presidents agree on the vital need to put an immediate end to this conflict, whose continuation can only bring more grief to the Central American people.

Rafael Angel CALDERON FOURNIER
President
Republic of Costa Rica

Rafael Leonardo CALLEJAS
President
Republic of Honduras

Marco Vinicio CEREZO AREVALO
President
Republic of Guatemala

Violeta BARRIOS de CHAMORRO
President
Republic of Nicaragua

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Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 35

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Letter dated 20 December 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued by a spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan on the deportation of Palestinians living in Israeli-occupied territory and on the continuing terrorism there (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have this text circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 35.

(Signed) Yoshio HATANO
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Japan to the
United Nations

ANNEX

Statement issued on 18 December 1990 by a spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan on the deportation of Palestinians from Israeli-occupied territory and on the continuing terrorism there

1. The Government of Japan strongly condemns the announcement made by the Government of Israel on 15 December of the deportation of four Palestinians from the Gaza Strip, which is Israeli-occupied territory. Such a measure infringes on the rights of the residents in the occupied territories who, as the Government of Japan has repeatedly pointed out to the Israeli Government, should be treated in accordance with international law and with humanitarian consideration.

2. On the other hand, since the disturbances in East Jerusalem on 8 October, there has been a series of acts of violence in Israel and Israeli-occupied territories, and on 14 December, there was an incident involving the killing of three Israeli citizens. The Government of Japan expresses its deep concern over this vicious circle of violence, and once again calls upon all concerned to exercise self-restraint.

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Agenda item 35
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Note verbale dated 26 December 1990 from the Permanent Mission of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to forward under cover of this note:

1. The final communiqué of the eleventh session of the Supreme Council of the States members of the Gulf Co-operation Council, held at Doha, Qatar from 22 to 25 December 1990 (annex I);

2. The Doha Declaration, also adopted by the above-mentioned session of the Supreme Council (annex II).

The Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations requests the Secretary-General to circulate the enclosed texts as official documents of the United Nations under agenda item 35.

ANNEX I

Final communiqué of the eleventh session of the Supreme Council of the Gulf Co-operation Council, held at Doha, Qatar, from 22 to 25 December 1990

At the invitation of His Highess Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar, and with the help of God and in His keeping, the eleventh session of the Supreme Council of the Gulf Co-operation Council was held at Doha from 22 to 25 December 1990. The following were present:

His Highness Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan, President of the United Arab Emirates;

His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Sulman Al Khalifa, Prime Minister of the State of Bahrain;

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, King of Saudi Arabia;

His Majesty Sultan Quboo Bin Said, Sultan of Oman;

His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar;

His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of Kuwait.

Aggression of the Iraqi régime against Kuwait

The Supreme Council studied the grave situation in the region created by the Iraqi régime's occupation of the sovereign State of Kuwait and the threat that it poses to the security and integrity of the States members of the Gulf Co-operation Council. It considered the consequent bloodbath and displacement of innocent people, both nationals and residents of Kuwait, and the actions involving arrest, torture, looting and desecration carried out in an attempt to destroy Kuwait's identity and put an end to its existence. The Supreme Council further discussed the after effects of that aggression and its grave consequence for the security and stability of the Gulf region and the Arab world and for international peace and security.

Renewing its vigorous condemnation of the Iraqi régime for its blatant and iniquitous aggression against the State of Kuwait and for its persistent refusal to comply with the principles set forth in the Pact of the League of Arab States, in resolution 195 of the Arab Summit Conference, in the Charter of the United Nations and in the resolutions of the Security Council relating to the aggression against the State of Kuwait, the Supreme Council affirms that the Governments and peoples of its member States will stand by the State of Kuwait in its ordeal, will support it unconditionally and will act in full solidarity with its people and Government in their holy war until complete liberation is achieved.

The Supreme Council commends the people of Kuwait in its steadfast rejection of the occupation and its loyalty to the legitimate Government under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah; it expresses its admiration of the sacrifices made by that people in the face of intimidation, coercion, maltreatment and random executions; it salutes its continued resistance and determination to vanquish the forces of evil and aggression; and it expresses its pride in the cohesion of the unified Kuwaiti family as embodied in the Kuwaiti People's Congress held at Jeddah.

The Council, bearing in mind the efforts to avert a tragedy that were made severally and collectively by its member States both before and after the iniquitous Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait on 2 August 1990, and recalling their sincere and earnest endeavour to reach a peaceful solution, expresses its appreciation for the good offices exercised by certain leaders of brotherly and friendly countries in an attempt to persuade the Iraqi régime to conform with inter-Arab legitimacy, in accordance with the resolutions adopted by the Arab Summit Conference, and with international legitimacy, in accordance with the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council. It reaffirms the stand taken by the GCC countries against the Iraqi aggression, their determination to resist it and their resolve to remove all of its effects and consequences, and it does so on the grounds that an attack on any member State is an attack on all member States, that the security of the GCC countries is an integral whole and that the aggression of the Iraqi régime against the State of Kuwait constitutes aggression against all the GCC countries. The Council reiterates its call to the Iraqi leadership to respect international covenants and international custom, to honour the agreements and treaties that it has concluded with the State of Kuwait and to assume a disposition for peace in order to safeguard the accomplishments of the Iraqi people and avoid squandering the assets, capacities and blood of its sons in a confrontation that can only bring it loss and destruction. It calls upon the Iraqi leadership to begin immediately and without reservations or conditions the withdrawal of its forces from all the territory of the State of Kuwait so that the legitimate authority may be restored before 15 January 1991 and the fraternal Iraqi people and the peoples of the region and the world spared the horrors of a devastating war. The Council further demands that the Iraqi régime must respect the status of civilians and ensure the safety of their lives and property and must safeguard private and public installations and property in accordance with Islamic law, the provisions of the 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and the international humanitarian covenants and conventions.

The Council holds Iraq responsible for the payment of compensation for losses and damage caused by the invasion and suffered by Kuwaiti government departments and public and private banks, agencies, establishments and corporations and for the seizure and transfer outside Kuwait of their property, funds and deposits. It affirms the legal right of Kuwaitis and third country nationals who have suffered damage to receive just compensation for the loss or damage incurred by them as a result of the iniquitous Iraqi aggression.

In the framework of political and diplomatic efforts to strengthen the unanimity of the Arab and international consensus rejecting the aggression and to ensure the implementation of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the Council decided to entrust to a committee of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of member States the task of making joint visits to the countries of States permanent members of the Security Council, a number of Arab countries and other important countries.

Recalling the principles set forth in the Muscat Declaration, adopted by the Council at its tenth session, which affirms the fundamental legal norms by which the GCC countries will be bound in their international dealings, namely the principles of good-neighbourliness and mutual respect for national sovereignty, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of States, the non-use of force or threat of use of force by States and the adoption of dialogue and negotiations as an effective means for the settlement of disputes, the Council expresses the hope that the Iraqi régime will respond to the requirements of inter-Arab and international legitimacy while it stresses, at the same time, the right and indeed the determination of the GCC countries to use all necessary means to ensure the restoration of sovereignty and legitimacy to Kuwait.

The Council expresses its appreciation and gratitude to all the Arab, Islamic and friendly countries that have stood by the truth and supported legitimacy and that have condemned the aggression and sought its reversal, in compliance with the resolutions backed by inter-Arab and international legitimacy, by responding to the request of the GCC countries to deploy their forces alongside the Gulf forces and assist them in their defensive task. At the same time, it stresses that the Arab, Islamic and friendly forces dispatched at the request of the Gulf States shall return to their own countries when the GCC countries request them to do so with the removal of the causes requiring their presence, namely the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the threat posed to the States members of the Gulf Co-operation Council. The Council affirms that such honourable attitudes will reflect positively on the relations, in all fields, of the GCC countries with the Arab, Islamic and friendly countries in question.

Functioning of the Gulf Co-operation Council

The Supreme Council reviewed the various stages through which joint action had advanced in the political, security, military, economic and social fields. It considered ways in which co-operation and integration among member States could be advanced on the basis of the purposes and principles set forth in the GCC Statute, taking account of security developments in the region in the light of the treacherous invasion by Iraqi forces of the territory of the State of Kuwait, of the changes and developments observed in the inter-Arab arena affecting the essential character of the inter-Arab order and of the changes taking place in the world as a result of the redrawing of the international order.

The Supreme Council affirms its desire to quicken the pace of the Gulf Co-operation Council and, given their absolute conviction of their common destiny and their unity of purpose, to bring about a qualitative shift in the future collective action of its member States so as to achieve greater co-ordination, integration and cohesion among them.

The Council notes with great satisfaction the developing security and military co-operation among member States in the current difficult circumstances affecting the region as a result of Iraq's disdain for internationally endorsed values and covenants and its defiance of the will of the international community. It records its pride in the united stand taken by the GCC countries against Iraqi aggression and in their determination to resist that aggression.

In the belief that it is essential to achieve a greater degree of security and military co-operation among member States, particularly in the light of Iraq's occupation of the territory of the State of Kuwait and the threat that it poses to the security of the other GCC countries, the endorsed endorsed the recommendations made by the Ministers of Defence with regard to strengthening the self-defence capabilities of member States.

The Supreme Council reviewed the progress made by economic action and expressed its satisfaction at the achievements of joint action in that field. It affirmed its resolve to pursue such action in order to realize the aspirations of the citizens of the GCC countries and their desire to carry through the steps taken towards economic integration. For that purpose, the Supreme Council instructed the Committee on Financial and Economic Co-operation to take the necessary measures to develop new concepts of joint economic action in order to expedite the achievement of economic integration, to elaborate a programme to follow through on the establishment of a Gulf Common Market, to reach agreement on a uniform trade policy, to evaluate economic co-operation and to examine the provisions of the economic agreement and its modalities of implementation with a view to deriving from it new advantages that would enable the citizens of the GCC countries to make fresh gains in welfare and growth.

The security situation in the region

With the greatest regret, the Supreme Council notes the deteriorating security situation in the Gulf region as a result of the Iraqi régime having seen fit to invade the territory of the State of Kuwait and to bring the entire region to the brink of a devastating war without regard for the consequences for the fraternal Iraqi people, the Arab nation and the world as a whole.

Convinced that the maintenance of security and stability and the assurance of the integrity of this vital and important region of the world serves the interests of the countries of the region, the Arab nation and the world as a whole, the Council affirms its desire to do all that is possible to ensure the security and stability of the region and its constituent countries. It declares its resolve to increase the effectiveness of co-operation among the GCC countries, to strengthen their individual and collective defensive capabilities and to do everything possible to advance the interests of the security and prosperity of the countries of the region and to promote world peace. In this connection, it appreciates in particular the role being played by the Arab States that stand by inter-Arab legitimacy, and it looks forward to acting in co-ordination with them in surmounting the tragedy brought about by the iniquitous Iraqi aggression and to working alongside them in bringing about reconciliation, promoting Arab unanimity

and achieving a stronger and more cohesive inter-Arab order. At the same time, and given the prevailing climate of international reconciliation and the clear trend towards the establishment of a new world order, the GCC countries, together with the countries of the region and the Arab and international community, will strive for the elaboration of appropriate arrangements to ensure that there will be no repetition of such aggression and establish the basis to guarantee the security and integrity of the region and promote the goals of international peace and security.

The current Arab situation

The Council studied the deterioration in inter-Arab relations resulting from the Iraqi régime's mockery of Arab customs and Arab covenants and the split in Arab ranks brought about by its aggression. It called for Arab solidarity and the strengthening of confidence between members of the single Arab family, and it noted the damage caused by the iniquitous invasion to Arab capacities and capabilities to the detriment of development issues and the concerns of the Arab citizen.

In this connection, the Council stresses the importance, in order to forestall the collapse of the Arab edifice and heal the rift, of action unequivocally based on adherence in both policies and practices to the principles of respect for Arab neighbourliness, and not on interference in internal affairs, the resort to force and methods of intimidation and political blackmail, so that all material and human resources can be put to use in the service of Arab and Islamic causes and in assuring a better future for Arab citizens in all parts of the Arab world.

The GCC countries have made an effective contribution to promoting Arab development efforts at all levels - bilateral, regional and international. Given the desire of the GCC countries for the elaboration of new inter-Arab approaches to development and given their understanding of the importance of there being a common Gulf development policy in the framework of their continuing support for the economic development of the Arab countries in general, in accordance with a new concept that takes account of the contribution that such an effort can make to political stability and regional security in light of the economic difficulties caused by the Iraqi aggression against the Arab world, the Supreme Council decided to establish a programme to support development efforts in the Arab and Islamic countries basically with the aim of encouraging economic openness and the trend towards the market economy, improving Arab economic performance and mobilizing international support for the Arab development process through international funding institutions and national development assistance agencies for the benefit of national development programmes in the Arab States. The GCC countries expressed their resolve to provide the programme with the necessary resources and, accordingly, the Ministers of Finance of the GCC countries will meet next week in order to draw up detailed rules, to determine the amounts of the contributions of member States to be allocated to the programme and to establish a scale of assessments for each according to its capacities.

The Supreme Council reviewed developments with regard to the question of Palestine and expressed its concern at the negative impact on the Palestinian cause of the Iraqi aggression against the State of Kuwait. The Council recalls its previous resolutions and declarations on the issue and reiterates its commendation of the heroic struggle of the Palestinian people in its valiant intifadah against the authorities of the iniquitous occupation and their repressive and arbitrary practices. Affirming the full support of its member States and their unconditional backing for the historic intifadah of the Palestinian people, the Council urges the international community to provide every kind of support and assistance to the intifadah and to the people of the occupied territory in their ordeal and to endeavour to expose terroristic Israeli methods, and the occupation and its tyranny and bring a halt to such arbitrary measures as the expulsion of Palestinians and the demolition of their homes, which are incompatible with the principles of human rights and in breach of international law and international covenants.

The Council welcomes the adoption of Security Council resolution 681 (1990) on the provision of international protection to the Palestinians in the occupied territories and the Security Council's call for the convening of an international peace conference on the question of Palestine. The Supreme Council reaffirms its support for the convening of the conference with the participation of all the parties concerned, including the State of Palestine, and calls for the necessary measures to be taken for its realization.

With regard to the situation in Lebanon, the Council noted with deep satisfaction the recent positive developments there and the extention by the legitimate Government of its authority over Greater Beirut and other parts of the country. The Council expresses the hope that the complete unity and territorial integrity of Lebanon will be restored. In this connection, it expresses its appreciation of the efforts made by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, by His Majesty King Hassan II and by His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid and of the constructive role played by His Excellency President Hafez al-Assad in assisting the legitimate Government of Lebanon. The Council appeals to the international community to maintain its support for the Taif Agreement.

The Council reaffirms its support for His Excellency President Elias Hrawi and its hope for the restoration of security and stability to all Lebanese territory. The Council, recalling Emergency Arab Summit Conference resolution 185, in which it was decided to establish an international fund for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon, affirms its support and backing for the fund so that Lebanon may be able to proceed with its reconstruction and play its civilizing role in the Arab and international arenas.

Relations with Iran

The Council welcomes the desire of the Islamic Republic of Iran to improve and expand its relations with all the countries of the Gulf Co-operation Council. The Supreme Council affirms the importance of vigorous and realistic action to resolve the outstanding differences between Iran and its member States so that the countries of the region may set about achieving their desired goals and utilizing their resources for purposes of overall economic development. The Council affirms its

desire to establish good relations with Iran on the basis of good-neighbourliness, non-interference in internal affairs, respect for sovereignty and independence, and peaceful coexistence based on the bonds of religion and heritage that link the countries of the region.

International changes

The Supreme Council considered the report prepared by the tripartite ministerial committee to study international changes and evaluate their effects on the GCC countries. In its belief in the importance of keeping pace with the requirements of international developments so as to safeguard the interests of its member States and their peoples, the Council endorsed the recommendations submitted to it.

The Council welcomes the new spirit of reconciliation between East and West, and it expresses its satisfaction at the political and economic openness observed in the eastern half of the European continent in view of the role that it can play in and the effective contribution it can make to the promotion of world peace and the utilization of human resources for purposes of development in contrast with the squandering of wealth in burdensome and useless arms races. The Council commends the spirit of rationality in the new international intercourse based on mutual respect for sovereignty, a balance of interests and the rejection of aggression, treachery and occupation.

The Council further welcomes the reunified German Republic as a factor making for stability and an active element within the international community for the promotion of development and international change in a world in which there reigns a spirit of peace, mutual understanding, rationality and wisdom and where prosperity prevails.

The Council would like to renew the expression of its solidarity with the developing countries and its continuing support for them in their efforts to develop their economies and improve the standard of living of their citizens. It affirms that its preoccupation with the consequences of the criminal Iraqi aggression will not divert the GCC countries from continued co-operation and solidarity with the developing countries in their endeavours for the establishment of a more just and more balanced international economic order.

The Supreme Council decided to entrust the Secretary-General, Mr. Abd Allah Ya'qub Bisharah, with the task of pursuing the action in which he is engaged.

The Supreme Council expresses its great appreciation and gratitude to His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani, to his Government and to his people, for their generous hospitality and for the kind reception encountered by the leaders of the GCC countries and the members of participating delegations, and it commends the exemplary preparations and painstaking arrangements made both for the comfort of delegations and in order to ensure the success of the summit.

The Council looks forward to meeting, God willing, at its twelfth session, to be held in Kuwait in December 1991 at the invitation of His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of Kuwait.

Issued at Doha on 25 December 1990

ANNEX II

Doha Declaration adopted by the Supreme Council of the Gulf Co-operation Council at its eleventh session, 22 to 25 December 1990

Events and developments at the regional level and the consequences to which the Iraqi occupation of the State of Kuwait have given rise require, in all fields, a closer cohesion, a more secure linkage, stronger foundations for co-operation and improved co-ordination among the States of the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf. The Iraqi aggression has overthrown all the established principles of inter-Arab relations. It had further threatened the security and stability of the States of the region and indeed security and stability in the world as a whole. It has exposed the existence of our Arab nation and its common destiny to the gravest of dangers.

That aggression, with the rift that it has caused in Arab solidarity and the setback that it has brought to joint Arab action, now makes it essential to elaborate a clear and integrated strategy embracing the policies that must be pursued in future if a repetition of such aggression is to be avoided and to lay a firmer foundation for stronger relations among our Arab States.

The Iraqi invasion of the fraternal State of Kuwait having revealed the inadequacy of existing security arrangements within the framework of the Gulf Co-operation Council, Their Majesties and Their Highnesses do hereby declare:

1. That they affirm their commitment to the Muscat Declaration, adopted by the Supreme Council at its tenth session.

2. That it is essential that there should be a complete withdrawal, without restrictions or conditions, of all Iraqi forces from the fraternal State of Kuwait and that its legitimate Government, under the leadership of its Amir, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah should be restored, in accordance with the resolutions of the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the United Nations.

3. That the elaboration of security and defence arrangements for the GCC countries ensuring the protection of the national security of each of the member States and the regional security of the six States members of the Gulf Co-operation Council will be carried through.

4. That they reaffirm the well-established position of principle of the GCC countries supporting the valiant Palestinian intifadah and promoting the Palestinian cause, which is the Arabs' primary cause and that for which it is incumbent on the international community to seek a just solution that will restore to this fraternal people its legitimate rights, principally its right to exercise self-determination and establish its independent State on the soil of its homeland.

5. That there will be greater political co-ordination among the GCC countries in the internal, regional, inter-Arab and international fields.

6. That economic co-operation among the GCC countries will be strengthened, in particular by:

(a) The development of new concepts of joint economic action in order to expedite the achievement of economic integration;

(b) The elaboration of a programme to carry through the establishment of a common market among the GCC countries, and agreement on a unified trade policy;

(c) The evaluation of the economic agreement with a view to deriving therefrom advantages that will achieve a balance of interests among member States and ensure that obstacles are circumvented.

7. That co-ordination among the information media in the GCC countries will be stepped up in order to cope with hostile information campaigns, and that a framework joint information plan for the GCC countries will be drawn up in order to monitor and analyse world information and guide the information media in dealing with it.

8. That support will be provided to the secretariat for the establishment of committees of experts to study the proposals made and develop them in the form of integrated plans for submission to the Ministerial Committees concerned.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-fifth session
Agenda items 3 and 153
CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FORTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
IRAQI AGGRESSION AND THE CONTINUED OCCUPATION OF KUWAIT IN FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fifth year

Letter dated 26 December 1990 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to the note verbale from the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations circulated in document A/45/891 of 20 December 1990, I should like to state that that note constitutes a blatant exposure of Iraqi claims by the falsification of history that it evinces and by its reference to a so-called merger that has been rejected by the Kuwaiti people and by the entire international community as represented by the Security Council in its resolution 662 (1990), which considers Iraq's hostile actions null and void. Moreover, the note in question also reveals the extent of the ignorance that characterizes the policies of the Iraqi régime and its representatives in that, notwithstanding the statement that it makes, the General Assembly has yet to approve the report of the Credentials Committee.

The Iraqi reservation with respect to the report of the Credentials Committee constitutes in itself an act of open defiance of the will of the international community as represented by the Security Council. Immediately following the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, the Council adopted a series of firm resolutions in which it condemned the aggression, demanded the full, immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the aggressor, considered the annexation as null and void and as having no legal validity and called for the restoration of the legitimate Government of the State of Kuwait.

The Security Council has further adopted a series of firm resolutions totally isolating the Iraqi régime from the civilized international community, imposing on it a comprehensive economic embargo and holding it liable for compensation for the losses and damage caused to the Kuwaiti people and to residents in its territory by inhuman practices of unprecedented cruelty, such as the murder, torture and expulsion of Kuwaitis and the plunder of public and private funds and movable property, in a comprehensive process of destruction of Kuwait's economic and social structure.

In its aggression against and occupation and annexation of Kuwait and in its practices, which are an affront to mankind, the Iraqi régime has not only violated all of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations but also those of Islam, of the Pact of the League of Arab States, of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and international conventions such as the third and fourth Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, to say nothing of the principles of human rights.

Such a régime, against which the Security Council and the entire international community has taken an unprecedented stance and one that is commensurate with the scale of the aggression committed, truly has no right to be accorded a place among civilized countries and peoples. The presence of the representatives of this régime at the United Nations is an affront to the lofty principles on which the United Nations is founded.

Iraq's claim to represent the State of Kuwait renders the credentials of the Iraqi delegation itself legally invalid, and it is incompatible with the provisions of Security Council resolution 662 (1990). Accordingly, my country's delegation enters an official reservation with respect to the credentials of the Iraqi delegation.

That the Iraqi régime is not a peace-loving régime has been demonstrated by the crimes that it has committed against mankind, and it has no place in an organization whose edifice is built upon principles of law, justice and the love of peace.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 3 and 153, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad Saad AL SALLAL
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO
INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES
AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE
PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS
OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fifth year

Letter dated 31 December 1990 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am instructed by the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, which has the powers and responsibilities of the Provisional Government of Palestine, to bring the following to your immediate attention:

Over the week end, the Israeli occupying forces committed a new massacre against the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories since 1967, including Jerusalem.

According to our information, the Israeli forces shot and killed nine Palestinians, and injured around three hundred during two days of indiscriminate shooting against Palestinian masses celebrating the Anniversary of Palestinian Revolution, especially in Rafah, Gaza and Khan Younis.

In the light of such dangerous escalation of the Israeli oppression against the Palestinian civilians, we believe that the international community represented by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Security Council has to act immediately in order to protect the Palestinian people and to implement relevant Security Council resolutions, the most recent of which is resolution 681 (1990).

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 23, 35 and 77, and of the Security Council.

Dr. Nasser AL-KIDWA
Alternate Permanent Observer of
Palestine to the United Nations
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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